



State Route 500 Interchange Project at NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road Moves To Construction



◆ Public Open House June 17 ◆

With the recent approval of transportation funding by the state legislature and Governor Gary Locke, the State Route 500 interchange project at NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road in Vancouver will start construction this summer.

Project Background

This is one of several projects planned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to make travel on SR 500 safer and more efficient. Completed projects include the Andresen Road and Thurston Way interchanges.

The SR 500 interchange at NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road has been identified by WSDOT as a High Accident Location. These are places on the highway system that experience a higher than average number of accidents when compared to other locations with similar characteristics.

When finished, the interchange will improve safety, create better connections to existing roads, improve pedestrian and bicycle connections, and decrease congestion in this busy area.

Project Description

This project will:

- Replace the current intersection at SR 500 and NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road with a new freeway-style interchange. Traffic on SR 500 will no longer have to stop at a stoplight, but will travel up and over NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road on a bridge.
- Make merging from northbound I-205 to eastbound SR 500, and from eastbound SR 500 to NE 112th Avenue, safer and easier by constructing new exit ramps.
- Construct retaining walls around the interchange as needed to keep the project within the existing state right of way and minimize impacts to property owners.

- Construct three ponds to treat storm water runoff from the roadway and interchange.
- Construct noise walls along residential areas on eastbound SR 500 just east of the YMCA, and on northbound I-205 just south of the SR 500 exit.
- Add bicycle lanes and sidewalks on NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road.

Traffic Impacts

WSDOT is committed to working closely with the contractor to minimize construction impacts on the traveling public. Although specific traffic impacts will not be known until a contractor is selected, WSDOT anticipates the following:

- During a portion of the construction, left turns from eastbound SR 500 onto Gher Road and from westbound SR 500 onto NE 112th Avenue will not be allowed. Detours will be posted.
- Left turns from NE 112th Avenue and Gher Road onto SR 500 may be restricted on a few weekends when needed.
- SR 500 will be widened temporarily on the north side (parallel to Burger King) and all traffic will then be shifted to this new section for a period of time so that the bridge can be built.
- Motorists should expect congestion through the intersection and seek alternate routes if desired.

Project Schedule

WSDOT is currently soliciting project bids from interested construction contractors. Construction will begin in August and WSDOT expects the project to be completed in 2006. The project will be constructed in stages to help accommodate construction work and maintain traffic flow.



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Chuck Ruhsenberger
Southwest Region
P.O. Box 11709
Vancouver, WA 98668-1709

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VANCOUVER WA
PERMIT NO 263

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

SR 500 Interchange Project at NE 112th Ave./Gher Road

◆ OPEN HOUSE ◆

**Tuesday, June 17, 2003
4 p.m. – 7 p.m. (come by anytime)**

**WSDOT Southwest Region Headquarters, 1st Floor
11018 NE 51st Circle in Vancouver**
(Southwest corner of interchange; across NE 112th Ave. from YMCA)

Learn about the different stages of the project, possible alternate routes to ease traffic during construction, and how to stay informed of traffic impacts.

For additional information on this project:

- Call the WSDOT Area Engineering Office in Vancouver at 360-759-1310
- Send an e-mail to SR500Gher@wsdot.wa.gov
- Visit our project Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR500NE112Interchange>